

NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**CONCORD CEREMONY MARKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF POWERED FLIGHT
WRIGHT BROTHERS MADE HISTORY ON DECEMBER 17, 1903**

It was a 12 second flight that changed history. One of two brothers from Dayton, Ohio flew a fragile flying machine they built in their bicycle shop into the North Carolina sky for the first of four powered flights at 10:35 AM on December 17, 1903.

The 100th anniversary of that first powered flight by the Wright Brothers was celebrated in Concord today with a ceremony at the Legislative Office Building hosted by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation's Division of Aeronautics.

"December 17, 1903 was the day that mankind got wings," said Ken Goodsell of the Federal Aviation Administration's New England Region Office. "A flight that lasted less than a football field changed the way we worked and the way we lived. The Wright Brothers chose to reach for the sky and were willing to do what it took to get there."

State Representative Robert Giuda, of Warren, a United Airline pilot and a graduate of the Naval Academy, said "there is virtually no part of our lives that is not touched by aviation."

Rep. Giuda and Senator Carl Johnson, of Meredith, each read resolutions from the House and Senate recognizing the centennial of powered flight and designating December 15-21, 2003 as "New Hampshire aviation education week".

Representing the New Hampshire Aviation Historical Society, Pat Duffy, a retired Air Force Colonel, said, "there's something magical about flying". He spoke of the Aviation Historical Society's plans to convert the original terminal building at Manchester Airport to a historical museum in the coming year.

According to Ron Wanner, Administrator of the Division of Aeronautics, the first powered flight in New Hampshire took place in 1910 at the Rochester Fair.